THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) No such proposal has been received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh in the recent past. However, during the current drought year from August, 2003 to July, 2004 a quantity of 7.82 lakh tonnes of rice has been allocated to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh under Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojna (Special Component) for drought affected areas.

Diverting the forest land for construction of transmission line

1080. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Karnataka has requested the Union Government to divert 27.72 Hec. of forest land for construction of 220 KV DC transmission line from Hubli to Narendra in Dharwad District of Karnataka; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the present status of the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Central Government has already granted final approval to the proposal for diversion of 27.72 hectare of forest land for construction of 220 KV DC transmission line from Hubli to Narendra in Dharwad District of Karnataka, on 14th June 2004 under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Management of game sanctuaries under State Governments

1081. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will initiate steps to take a more direct and effective interest in the management of game sanctuaries under the control of State Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that sanctuaries under the control of State Governments are not getting the type and standards of management required;

(c) whether it is also a fact that such sanctuaries are deteriorating very rapidly; and

(d) the steps proposed to involve Central Government in the management of game sanctuaries all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) There are no Game Sanctuaries as such, in the country. Only four categories of Protected Areas, *viz*., National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves are there under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. The Government of India has already taken steps for effective management of Protected Areas under the control of State Governments. The steps taken are mentioned in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) All protected areas are under the management of respective State/ UT Governments and it is the responsibility of these Governments to effectively manage these. Government of India provides technical and financial assistance subject to the availability of the resources.

(c) No such report has been received.

(d) The Central Government is indirectly involved in the management of protected area in the sense that it provides financial assistance to states under the various centrally sponsored schemes for wildlife conservation, apart from giving technical help. The actual direct administrative control and management is to be done by the State Government/UTs themselves.

Statement

Steps taken by the government for protection and conservation of wildlife are as under

(Protection) Act, 1972.

(ii) Several rare and endangered species of wild animals have been included in the Schedules of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby giving it highest degree of protection.

(iii) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended and made more stringent. The punishment in cases of offences have been enhanced. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that has been used for committing any wildlife offence.

(iv) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

(v) Government of India has set up Regional and Sub-regional Offices for wildlife preservation in major export and trade centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wild animals and their products.

(vi) Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, *viz.* Project Tiger, Project Elephant and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.

(vii) A National Wildlife Action Plan 2002-16 was adopted by the Indian Board for Wild Life under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister in January 2002. The plan outlines the strategy for conservation and protection of wildlife in the country.

(viii) Government of India is a signatory to many international conventions concerning biodiversity conservation and control of illegal trade in wild flora and fauna.

Declaration against cruel and inhuman treatment of animals by PETA

1082. SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'People for Ethical Treatment of Animals' (PETA), a foreign-based organization, has issued a declaration against cruel and inhuman

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